

Boggs, Biden debate; 'agree' on busing issue

By Norm Leckman

The opponents in Delaware's race for the U.S. Senate differed sharply on crime and taxes last night, but, for differing reasons, proclaimed opposition to a constitutional amendment to ban busing for racial balance in public schools.

U.S. Sen. J. Caleb Boggs, R-Del., and his Democratic opponent, New Castle County Councilman Joseph R. Biden, debated the year's political issues during a meeting of the Brack-Ex-Rose Civic Association.

Boggs listed anticrime measures that he had cosponsored or supported, including the Safer Cities Act, which allocates money for law enforcement and the fight against drugs, "and other administrative and legislative anti-crime actions."

HE said he would encourage strengthening the courts, improving prisons and restoring dignity to police, and remind-

ed the 100 or so listeners that he has taken steps to guarantee benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

He said he believes some of the actions are having some success in reducing crime.

Biden said he disagreed that there is a move toward "safer streets."

HE cited statistics showing that the hard-core drug culture contributes to most crime and said the federal government has not done enough to stop hardened abusers. He said that addicts need long term, in-patient treatment which should be funded by the federal government."

Biden recommended strong action against poppy-growing nations in Southeast Asia.

Biden said that police agencies do not need more money but must learn how to use what they have more efficiently.

BOGGS told the audience that the federal government is doing all it can to lighten the load on the middle-income taxpayer. His opponent said that the Nixon administration talks about not raising taxes while at the same time planning a "hidden national sales tax" called the "blue-added" tax, which he said would cost middle-income taxpayers billions of dollars.

Boggs struck back by asking Biden why he felt it was necessary to wait for Republicans to give tax relief when Democrats have controlled Congress and could have led the way.

Biden quickly said, "I agree. There are as many Democrats controlled by big money as Republicans. Both parties have been guilty of not being responsive to the tax woes of the American middle class," he added.

BOTH men stated they would not support a constitutional amendment against busing for racial balance in schools. Biden, holding up copies of a legal brief, said, "I agree with the Swann vs. Charlotte-Mecklenberg decision," which supported busing only to remedy de jure (by law) segregation.

The nation's politicians have misled the people, Biden said.

"The Supreme Court never said you can bus for racial balance or to avoid de facto segregation," said Biden.

Boggs said he too opposed a constitutional amendment against busing because it is not appropriate to write new items into the Constitution whenever a problem comes up.

Wholesale power users huddle on rate rise

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — Representatives of five Delaware municipalities that purchase power from Delmarva Power and Light Co. met yesterday in Dover to consider opposition to DP&L's proposed 12.8-per-cent rate increase.

T. James said representatives from Milford, Smyrna, Newark and Seaford attended what he termed a "get-together" in the Dover offices.

James said the municipalities are all using the same lawyer, Wallace Duncan of Washington, D.C., who will file to intervene in the case before the Federal Power Commission. Deadline for the filing, he said, is tomorrow.

Depending on what the FPC decides, James said, a complaint may be filed with the Price Commission under the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970.

"The attorney will decide," he said.

James added that nothing "concrete" would be done until the papers for intervention have been filed.